

SIGNIS ASIA FOCUS



SAA2025 SIGNIS
SIGNIS ASIA ASSEMBLY
21-25 OCTOBER
PHILIPPINES

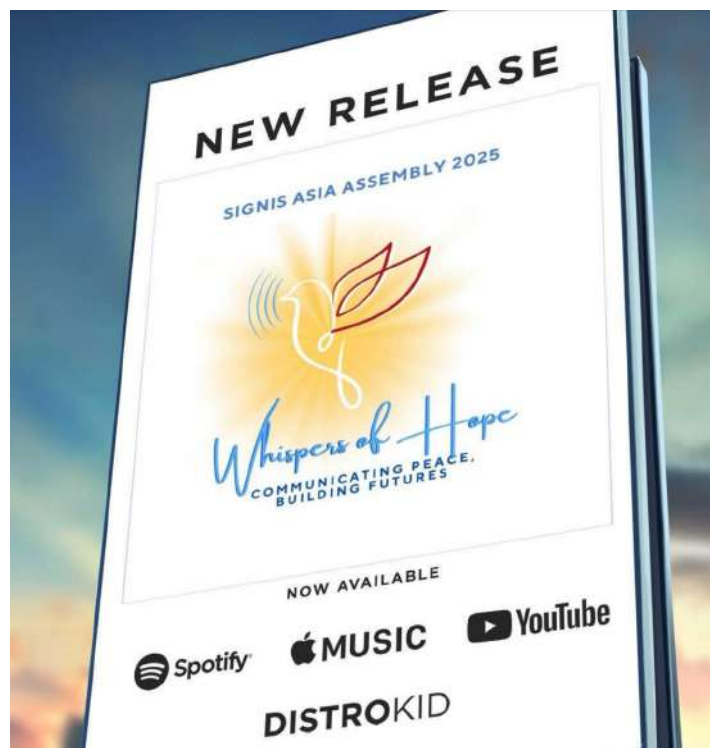
MANILA
TAGAYTAY

SIGNIS Asia Assembly 2025: Fostering Peace Through Faith-Based Communication

The SIGNIS Asia Assembly 2025 is set to bring together media professionals, communicators, and faith leaders from across Asia for a transformative gathering in the Philippines from October 21 to 25. This year's assembly will be hosted in Manila and Tagaytay, offering participants a unique blend of professional development and cultural immersion.

Drawing inspiration from the Jubilee of Hope and Pope Francis's message to "Share with Gentleness the Hope that is in your Hearts," the 2025 assembly places communication at the center of peacebuilding efforts. The theme highlights how media professionals can act as catalysts for positive social change throughout the Asian continent.

The assembly follows a structured format designed to maximize both learning and networking opportunities. Study Days, scheduled for October 22-24, will feature presentations, reflections, and in-depth discussions. Business Day: October 25 will focus on organizational matters and future planning.



SAA25 Theme Song "Whispers of Hope" <https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=WMJuPERRdHo&si=ICBmTto7Aeq3yoX6>

These sessions aim to equip participants with practical tools and strategies for using dialogue, storytelling, and digital platforms to promote reconciliation, justice, and sustainable development throughout Asia.

Beyond the formal programming, the assembly serves as a networking hub for faith-based communicators. Participants will have opportunities to forge new collaborations, strengthen existing working relationships, and build lasting friendships with like-minded professionals from across the region.

Venues:

Manila Prince Hotel

Address: 1000 San Marcelino St,
Ermita, Manila, 1000 Metro Manila,
Philippines



Inspired by the Jubilee of Hope and the Holy Father's message: "Share with Gentleness the Hope that is in your Hearts", this year's theme focuses on the transformative role of communication, and emphasizes communication as a powerful intervention for peace and social development.

[St. Paul Retreat House, Tagaytay, Philippines](#)



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SIGNIS Asia Focus is an E-Newsletter which publishes communication news from around Asia. Members are kindly requested to share their news, views, articles, programmes and productions. Please send your materials to:
signisasia.region@gmail.com

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FOCUS

SIGNIS Philippines all set for SAA 2025

PRESS RELEASE

By Teresa Reyes Tunay

Manila, Philippines – October 14, 2025 – Despite recent earthquakes, floods, and volcanic rumblings across the Philippines, the SIGNIS Asia Assembly 2025, in true Filipino fashion, is set to push through on Oct. 21–25 in Manila and Tagaytay.

SIGNIS Philippines says everything is ready to welcome 81 delegates from 14 countries, with all safety and comfort measures in place. “We’re keeping the faith and the fun,” SIGNIS Philippines president Pie Mabanta Fenomeno said. “Filipinos always find a way—rain or shine!”

The gathering’s theme, “Whispers of Hope: Communicating Peace, Building Futures”, resonates deeply as the hosts embody that very message through resilience, warmth, and humor.

Delegates can expect rich exchanges, creative sharing, and a celebration of Asia’s vibrant faith communities. As the Filipinos like to say: “Tuloy po kayo!” — You are most welcome!

Teresa Reyes Tunay has been a journalist for more than five decades. First recognized in 1968 —when posing as a social worker she joined undercover cops in raiding a Manila prostitution den—she has since become known for her integrity, versatility, and passion for truth, writing for Philippine and international audiences. Her career has been marked by unique experiences that made her the envy of many colleagues. “It’s a long story, and I’m still around learning and laughing, but let me stop here lest I start to believe my own press releases,” she quips.

Source: <https://www.signisasia.net/signis-philippines-all-set-for-saa-2025/>

SIGNIS Asia Assembly 2025 Launches Theme Song: Whispers of Hope

26 Sept. 2025 by SIGNIS PHILIPPINES

(Manila, Philippines, Sept. 26, 2025)– The SIGNIS Asia Assembly has unveiled its official theme song, “Whispers of Hope,” capturing the spirit of this year’s gathering and its theme of faith, peace, and communication.

Written to be both reflective and uplifting, the song draws on simple yet powerful images of hope: the cooing of a baby, the flicker of a candle, the touch of a mother, and the gentle breeze unseen. Through poetry and music, it speaks of hope that persists in the midst of darkness, conflict, and despair.

The lyrics also highlight a Christian vision of renewal: from the wounds of war to the healing of scars, from a broken world to the redemption brought by the Cross. At the same time, the song echoes the mission of SIGNIS communicators — to tell gentle stories, to build bridges of peace, and to communicate hope for the greater good.

One of the unique features of the song is its multilingual chorus, sung in Hindi, Bahasa, Korean, Filipino, and English, symbolizing Asia’s cultural richness and unity without uniformity. This multilingual element embodies the assembly’s international spirit, reminding participants that hope has many voices but has only one heart.

The theme song will be introduced at the opening of the SIGNIS Asia Assembly and will also accompany informal moments of fellowship, encouraging delegates to sing it together as a common expression of joy and solidarity.

The SIGNIS Asia Assembly gathers Catholic communicators, media professionals, and storytellers from across the region to reflect, collaborate, and renew their shared mission. Philippines hosts this year’s assembly to take place from October 21-25 in Manila and in Alfonso, Cavite.

The song is now available on Spotify, Youtube Music, Apple Music and other streaming sites.

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=WMJuPERRdHo>

Asian Catholic News Editors to Convene in Manila for SIGNIS ASIA Roundtable 2.0



PRESS RELEASE

By Teresa Reyes Tunay

Manila, Philippines – September 29, 2025 — Catholic news publication editors from across Asia will gather in Manila for the SIGNIS ASIA Catholic News Publication Editors' Roundtable 2.0 on October 19–20, 2025 at the Manila Prince Hotel. The two-day meeting will precede the SIGNIS Asia Assembly, scheduled for October 21–25, 2025 in Tagaytay City, Cavite—home to the world's smallest volcano.

Participants will represent Catholic news publications from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, East and West Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor Leste.

The Roundtable's main purpose is to reflect on how Catholic-based news is being communicated today, to explore ways of extending its reach in order to bring the Good News to wider audiences across Asia and to build a collaborative Catholic news network in Asia.

Expert Speakers from Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand will present on the following themes:

- What Would Asian Catholic News Media Look Like in 2030?
- Where Do We Preach? Finding the Catholic Voice and Visibility in the Digital Wild
- Bridging the Divide: Keeping the Faith Alive in an Increasingly Secular and Screen-Soaked Asia
- Stronger Together: Building a Collaborative Catholic News Network in Asia

Serving both as a strategic dialogue and a platform for collaboration, the Editors' Roundtable will set the tone for the SIGNIS ASIA Assembly, where Catholic communicators, media practitioners, and church leaders will continue discerning the future of faith-based communication in the region. #

For further details on the program: <https://www.signisasia.net/signis-asia-journalism-desk-catholic-news-publication-editors-roundtable-2/>

Colors of Creation: Malaysian Catholic Painter Brings Laudato Si' to Life



24 September 2025

Catholics around the world have found many ways to answer Pope Francis' call in Laudato Si'. Some plant trees, others take recycling seriously, while many embrace simpler lifestyles in solidarity with the earth.

For Malaysian artist Christine Das, the response took an unexpected path; her brush became her voice, and her canvas a witness.

Her journey into wildlife conservation art did not begin in the rainforest or among elephants, but in classrooms and studios. After high school, her parents enrolled her in a graphic design college, setting her on a path through diverse artistic disciplines.

"Over the years, I worked as a storybook illustrator, a fine art painter, a 2D animator, and even as part of the team creating props and scenic backdrops for the Hollywood film Anna and the King. Later, I took roles as a multimedia designer and an in-house hotel artist."

She tells Radio Veritas Asia in a recent interview that by the time 2006 arrived, she had spent 18 years building a career. Yet something inside her stirred. She felt called to something deeper. With what she describes as "blind faith," she left the security of her full-time job and walked into the uncertain world of contemporary art.

"I told myself," she recalled, "that if I was going to be an artist, then my art must be attached to a worthy cause. It had to serve God and the world."

A question, a leaf, a revelation

At first, Christine imagined she would become a Catholic painter in the tradition of the great masters. A cradle Catholic herself, she thought of Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, or Correggio, and how their works adorned churches with transcendent beauty. For three years, she pursued religious art. But the commissions were scarce, the fit was not perfect, and she felt the stirrings of a deeper search.

"I asked myself the big questions," Christine said. "Why did God put me here? Why this gift of art? If the Church doesn't need my paintings, then who does?" One day, she took her question to her parish priest. His answer was surprising. He asked her to touch a leaf. Christine did, and in that simple act, something shifted.

"Apparently, when I touched the leaf, I felt the tangible presence of God the Father," she said. "My confusion turned into contemplation."

The experience bore fruit. Soon after, Christine was commissioned to create a piece inspired by the "Tree of Life," marking the beginning of her journey as what she now calls an "eco-artist."

"Unwittingly, I was drawn to the natural world in a way that echoed the message of Laudato Si', to see creation not just as a backdrop, but as a living, sacred gift worthy of care, respect, and protection."

Source: <https://www.signisasia.net/colors-of-creation-malaysian-catholic-painter-brings-laudato-si-to-life/>



Meeting Lil' Joe

Later that same year, Christine travelled to Sabah, where the Borneo Conservation Trust arranged a meeting with Lil' Joe. The calf had been rescued and placed at the Lok Kawi Wildlife Park.

"When he walked up to me," Christine recalled, "I knew instantly why God had led me here. My art was meant to speak for creatures like him, their plight, their purpose on earth."

That trip also brought her into the rainforest of Kinabatangan. For Christine, it was a spiritual awakening. "It felt like I had walked into the heart of God," she said. "I finally understood what my priest meant when he told me to touch a leaf. My Creator Father is the natural world. They are not separate. His intelligence and love are manifested in nature."

A Vocation Shaped by Creation

From that moment on, Christine's work took on a new identity. She became not just a painter but a wildlife conservation artist. Her canvases began to fill with

elephants, orangutans, hornbills, and the lush greens of Borneo's forests. Each piece was more than an artwork, it was an act of advocacy, a call to protect creation.

"I feel as though I was thrown into the university of the natural world," she said. "My learning is endless. Every creature, every tree, every river teaches me something about God's intelligence and love."

Her work has supported conservation efforts across Malaysia, raising funds, awareness, and empathy. Just as importantly, it has touched hearts. Viewers who encounter her paintings do not only see endangered animals; they feel the sacredness of creation itself.

Laudato Si' and the Art of Witness

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si', Pope Francis's groundbreaking encyclical on the care of our common home. The pope wrote of the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," insisting that environmental degradation and human suffering are inseparable. Catholics worldwide have responded in diverse ways to the

call of Laudato Si'. Christine's art is another kind of response, one that resonates with the encyclical's call to see creation not as a resource to exploit but as a gift to cherish.

"Today, my art is my response to Laudato Si'," she said. "Each painting is a prayer, a way of giving back the love God has shown me and the talent He entrusted to me. Through my images, I speak for the earth, for its creatures, and for the beauty of our common home, bringing the message of Laudato Si' to life on canvas."

As Laudato Si' enters its second decade, Christine's art reminds us that to care for creation is to honour God, turning every brushstroke into a prayer and every act of stewardship into hope for our common home. For her, the path is clear: to let her brush speak, again and again, for the fragile and wondrous gift of creation.

(Joseph Masilamany is a veteran Malaysian journalist and freelance writer with extensive experience in Catholic media. He contributes regularly to leading Catholic news agencies and platforms.)

Africa to host landmark world congress 2026 for Catholic media practitioners in Rwanda



SIGNIS President Mrs. Helen Osman; SIGNIS Africa President Fr. Prof. Walter Ihejirika (r) and SIGNIS Secretary General, Dr. Peter Monthienvichienchai (l)

SIGNIS Africa President, Fr. Prof. Walter Chikwendu Ihejirika, has said that the recent SECAM Plenary Assembly of Africa's Catholic Bishops has warmly welcomed the Catholic communication association's plans to hold the SIGNIS World Congress in Kigali, Rwanda, next year.

Fr. Walter expressed his gratitude to SIGNIS World for entrusting Africa with the task of hosting the global gathering of Catholic communicators. He assured participants of a uniquely African experience and expressed confidence that the continent is equal to the task of hosting the global event.

SIGNIS (World Catholic Association for Communication) is an international Catholic organisation for professionals in media and new technologies, including press, radio, television, cinema, and digital media. It functions as a global network with representatives from numerous countries and regional groups such as SIGNIS Africa. SIGNIS holds Pontifical recognition by the Vatican as an international public association of the Church and is considered an important arm of its evangelizing mission.

Bishops of Africa welcome SIGNIS Congress

According to Fr. Walter, since SIGNIS is a Catholic association, it was essential to seek the blessings of the Bishops of Africa, who recently convened in Kigali for their SECAM Plenary Assembly.

Source: <https://www.signisasia.net/africa-to-host-landmark-world-congress-2026-for-catholic-media-practitioners-in-rwanda/>

(Cont.)

“We are an association for the Church that helps her fulfill her mission of communicating the Gospel message and values worldwide. Specifically, SIGNIS Africa is part of SECAM. We have been collaborating with SECAM through the Episcopal Commission for Communication, CEPACS. We regularly interact with Bishop Emmanuel Badejo, and Bishop Bernadin Mfumbusa, the immediate past and current Bishop Chair of CEPACS, who is always present at our activities. So, we attended this SECAM assembly as part of SECAM’s mission. But most importantly, we came to inform the Bishops of Africa about our SIGNIS World Congress, scheduled for Kigali in August 2026. We are grateful that the SIGNIS World President and Secretary-General also attended the SECAM Plenary to speak with the Bishops and share our plans for the congress. We felt it was important to properly brief the Bishops of Africa about this upcoming milestone,” Fr. Walter explained.



Fr Walter Ihejirika being interviewed

Who can participate?

Father Walter confirmed that the Congress will take place from 3 August to 8 August, 2026. He urged Catholic communicators to mark their calendars and plan their attendance and mentioned that SIGNIS World would in the not-so-distant future, launch a comprehensive portal for registration and information related to the congress.

When asked about participation, Fr. Walter stated: “The congress is open to all Catholic communicators worldwide. The primary participants are Catholic communication professionals and practitioners from across the globe. We expect active SIGNIS

members from everywhere. We also anticipate ecclesiastical authorities from the Vatican, local Church authorities in Africa, and Rwanda. The presence of Church leaders, especially Bishops in charge of communication, affirms our identity as a Catholic organisation. However, we also welcome communicators from other denominations or Churches who share SIGNIS’s vision—promoting peace, reconciliation, harmony among cultures, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, we expect environmental activists to participate, given the theme: ‘Digital communication for communion, equity, and environmental well-being,’” Fr. Walter elaborated.

Call for partnership

Every four years, the SIGNIS Assembly of Delegates meets to elect its President, two Vice Presidents, and Secretary-General. The Kigali congress will serve not only as a platform for sharing, interaction, and networking but also as an opportunity to bring together members from around the world and to renew the SIGNIS leadership.

Organising such a mammoth congress is a major undertaking. Fr. Walter has since encouraged like-minded individuals and organisations to consider partnering with SIGNIS and supporting the event.

“To organise this Congress successfully, we need the support of Bishops in sourcing funding. We are hopeful in the grace of God. We are hopeful in the providence of God.

And we are hopeful that he’s going to open doors for us through agencies, through donor organisations, through partners, through Church organisations. We are very hopeful. And I must tell you that already our participation in the SECAM Plenary Assembly opened some doors of opportunities for us. All I can say is that most of the participants, especially those coming to Rwanda for the first time, will experience Africa in a completely different manner – definitely away from the negative stereotype headlines about the continent. I can assure them of a warm, friendly and unforgettable immersion into African culture,” Fr. Walter concluded.

Grace's pilgrimage: Thai child becomes symbol of faith, hope at Vatican event

5 August 2025

By Chainarong Monthienvichienchai



Grace Techamontrikul (second from right) with her parents, George and Maria, at the Jubilee of Youth in Rome. Photo credit: Maria Thearrat Amornnontarith

Amid the sea of over a million young people from around the world gathered in Rome for the Jubilee of Youth, one small but radiant figure stood out.

Eleven-year-old Gianna Grace Techamontrikul, or “Grace,” inspired fellow pilgrims with her determination, faith, and joyful spirit.

“This is once in a lifetime,” Grace told LiCAS News while taking part in nearly every activity alongside older youth at the weeklong Jubilee of Youth, celebrated from July 28 to August 3 under the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.”

Grace attended the event with her parents, George Varakorn and Maria Thearrat Techamontrikul. Despite health challenges and fatigue, Grace embraced the pilgrimage with courage and gratitude, describing the experience as both exhausting and extraordinary.

“Although I am extremely tired every day, I enjoy meeting so many youths from around the world. Everyone is very friendly and warm. This is something truly special for my pilgrimage,” she said.

Spiritual milestone

Grace’s father, George, described the gathering as a profound spiritual milestone for the family. “It was awe-inspiring and deeply moving to witness hundreds of thousands of young people, speaking different languages, from different cultures, united in one faith and one family — children of the same God,” said Mr. George.

One unforgettable moment for the family was being close to Pope Leo XIV during a celebration honoring digital missionaries at St. Peter’s Basilica. Grace’s

mother described the encounter as “a priceless moment that will remain an anchor in our faith journey.”

Pope Leo XIV gave an emotional closing message to the more than one million young pilgrims at the closing Mass on Sunday, telling them they are “the sign that a different world is possible,” one built not with weapons but with dialogue and compassion.

“Let us remember the young people of Gaza, Ukraine, and all countries bloodied by war, who could not be here with us,” the Pope said.

Grace’s journey: From struggles to strength

Born prematurely, Grace has faced numerous health challenges, including respiratory issues and developmental delays.

“Grace requires very close care,” her mother told LiCAS News. “During our flight to Rome via Milan, she suffered severe diarrhea—going in and out of the toilet ten times. But she remained patient and calm throughout.”

Despite the physical toll, Grace was especially eager to participate in the Digital Missionary sessions. A budding social media influencer in Thailand, she found joy in using online platforms to share her faith and connect with fellow digital evangelists.

Pilgrimage through history and holiness

As part of their Jubilee pilgrimage, Grace and her family visited Assisi, praying at the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare, and to Blessed Carlo Acutis, who is set to be canonized early next month.

(Cont.)

They also took part in the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels on August 2, tied to the Portiuncula Indulgence, which grants a plenary indulgence to pilgrims who visit the Portiuncula chapel in Assisi.

“Rome itself became part of the pilgrimage,” said her father. “The city’s rich Christian history — from the early martyrs to Renaissance saints — invited us not just to witness, but to engage spiritually, emotionally, and communally.”

Throughout the week, the streets of Rome echoed with youths singing hymns, praying rosaries in piazzas, and lining up for hours at the Circus Maximus for confessions, with priests offering the sacrament in more than a dozen languages.

Generation of pilgrims

The Jubilee of Youth, organized by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life with the Diocese of Rome, is the first such youth jubilee since the last Ordinary Jubilee in 2000.

For most attendees, including Grace, this was their first time experiencing the opening of a Holy Door and the spiritual graces of a Holy Year.

“For Grace, this experience is a spiritual milestone,” said her father. “It deepened her understanding of what it means to live as a young Catholic today.”

The 2025 Jubilee of Youth serves as both a celebration and a call to action. In a time marked by division, war, and digital misinformation, the Church’s message is clear: faith, unity, and hope still shine brightly in the hearts of the young.

And in the crowd of over a million, one small pilgrim from Thailand carried that message with quiet grace.

Source: <https://www.signisasia.net/graces-pilgrimage-thai-child-becomes-symbol-of-faith-hope-at-vatican-event/>



Grace Techamontrikul with her parents, Maria and George, share a joyful moment near Pope Leo XIV at St. Peter's Basilica. Photo credit: Maria Thearrat Amornnontarith



Grace Techamontrikul and her parents, Maria and George, share a lively moment with fellow pilgrims during the Jubilee of Youth. Photo credit: Maria Thearrat Amornnontarith

Keeping Human Presence at the Heart of AI Communication – 60th World Day of Social Communications Theme



29 September, 2025 - By Edgar Rubio

In the run-up to the 60th World Day of Social Communications, the theme lands with prophetic clarity. It urges us to preserve human voices and faces in an age when machines speak fluently and simulate us convincingly. The Vatican's concern is not nostalgia. It is anthropology. Communication is a moral act before it is a technical one. Algorithms can rank, predict, and optimize. Only people can listen, discern, and love.

Artificial intelligence has made the impossible routine. Now, text reads like us, images look like us, and voices sound like us. These tools expand the reach of both pastoral work and journalism. They help through translation, accessibility, and data analysis. Yet they also carry a spiritual cost when they become substitutes for human encounter. Deepfakes fracture trust. Automated feeds flatten conscience. Outsourcing attention dulls our capacity for wonder and critique. Put bluntly: if we surrender our judgment to systems, we surrender our freedom. The Church's answer is neither technophobia nor naïveté. Instead, it is stewardship. First, we must insist that public communication remain anchored in human responsibility. Editorial judgment is not an old-fashioned hurdle. It is the very space where truth and charity meet. Second, we need a cultural conversion to Media and Artificial Intelligence Literacy—MAIL. This must begin in families, schools, parishes, and newsrooms. Literacy here means more than spotting errors. It means cultivating habits that keep persons at the center: slow reading, source verification, context, the option for the vulnerable, and the courage to say “I don't know.”

For Catholic communicators, the examen becomes newsroom practice: Who is represented? Who is erased by data gaps and bias? Do we use AI for the common good, or to manipulate and harvest intimacy without consent? “Human-in-the-loop” cannot be a checkbox; it is a pastoral stance. Finally, we should recover the sacramentality of presence in a mediated world. Faces matter. Voices matter. The Church's mission has always been incarnational. God communicates by becoming someone we can see and hear. Let our digital ministries, our reporting, and our platforms reflect that mystery. Machines are instruments, not idols. Technology is a bridge, not a mask.

If 2026 is to be a turning point, let it be this. Aim for a renewed alliance between technical excellence and spiritual wisdom. Let our communications proclaim not just information, but communion.

Source: <https://www.signis.world/top3/29-09-2025/60th-wcd-keeping-human-presence-at-the-heart-of-ai-communication/>

Following Saint Acutis's example in Media

By Park Ye-seul
Seoul, Korea
September 17, 2025

Catholic Peace Broadcasting and the Catholic Peace Newspaper (cpbc) Seoul, Korea celebrated the installation of a statue of Saint Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) in front of their headquarters on the 16th, declaring the young internet apostle their second patron saint after Saint Paul the Apostle. Often called “God’s influencer,” Acutis is the first saint from Generation Z, remembered for spreading knowledge of God and the beauty of his faith through digital media.

In honor of the occasion, cpbc produced a variety of content, including a documentary on Acutis’s life and faith, and a commemorative booklet (not for sale). The broadcaster said it aims to emulate his evangelizing mission, using modern media to share the Gospel in his spirit.

“Saint Acutis was a young person of our time who conveyed purity through media evangelization,” said Father Cho Jeong-rae, president of cpbc. “By naming him our second patron saint, following Saint Paul, we express our desire to live alongside his youthful spirit.”

Father Cho added, “cpbc will continue the work of spreading the Gospel online, using media to reach diverse audiences today, just as Acutis did during his lifetime.” He noted that the statue includes QR codes and inscriptions allowing visitors to explore the saint’s life and heart. “Through him, we hope young people look beyond growth-oriented and materialistic thinking toward a world beyond themselves,” he said.

Documentary on Saint Acutis Premieres Sept. 26

CPBC TV will air a special documentary, Carlo Acutis: Gospel Proclaimer of Our Time, chronicling the 15-year life of this peer apostle for youth.

Part 1 examines his birth and significance as the first millennial saint.

Part 2 explores his childhood, family life, devotion to the Eucharist, and influence on neighbors.

Part 3 highlights his pioneering use of technology for evangelization, including his creation of the Eucharistic Miracles website and innovative approaches to faith outreach.

Part 4 follows his journey toward sainthood, covering his leukemia diagnosis, treatment, reflections on mortality, beatification in 2020, and canonization.

The documentary features Acutis’s mother, Antonia Salzano, and details cpbc’s efforts to honor him during its 37th anniversary year. It premieres Sept. 26 at 10:30 p.m., with reruns on Sept. 27 at 6:50 p.m., Sept. 28 at 11:10 a.m., and Sept. 29 at 4 p.m. It will also be available on cpbc Plus starting Sept. 26.

Booklet Chronicles the Life of “God’s Influencer”

cpbc has released a booklet, The Story of Saint Carlo Acutis:

A Boy Saint Who Lived Among Us in the 2000s, telling the story of a young man whose faith shone brightly in the midst of a noisy digital world. Accompanying his spiritual devotion, Acutis served the less fortunate in Milan. At nine, he used his allowance, with his parents’ support, to buy sleeping bags, blankets, and food for the homeless. He later helped them access showers, free meals, public housing, and clothing. When he died at 15, many of those he helped attended his funeral.

A gifted computer programmer, Acutis used technology to aid others, creating websites about martyrs, films to uplift struggling friends, and the renowned Eucharistic Miracles website. His deep love for Jesus and the Eucharist continues to inspire those seeking peace and meaning today.

Acutis’s message endures: “The Eucharist is the highway to the Kingdom of God of eternal happiness.” cpbc is distributing the booklet for free, accessible via QR code, and offers additional resources online, including prayers and videos at sanacutis.cpbc.co.kr

Through these efforts, cpbc encourages the faithful to follow Saint Acutis’s example, walking steadfastly toward a “God of absolute purity” in the modern world.



Media Skills Workshop for Mission: AMRAT Thalitha Kum India



Ghaziabad, Delhi-NCR, 6th October 2025: AMRAT Thalitha Kum India organized a three-day Media Skills Workshop from 3rd to 5th October 2025 at NISCORT Media College, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The training brought together 38 religious sisters from 23 congregations to explore the world of digital communication and technology in the service of mission.

The workshop commenced with an inspiring introduction by Fr. Robinson Rodrigues, Director NISCORT, PRO and Spokesperson for CBCI who outlined the goals of the training – to unlock new ways of sharing the mission and message of Christ through digital storytelling, while ensuring cyber security and awareness against online threats. He introduced Mr. Aakash Singh, Assistant Professor, who conducted an engaging session on Mobile Photography, focusing on composition, framing, and photo editing. The hands-on practice boosted participants' confidence in using smartphones effectively for mission related communication.

Ms. Ruchika Mahajan, Head of the Multimedia Department, introduced participants to the creative world of Canva. Her session helped them design visually appealing materials such as flyers, brochures, posters, banners, and videos for evangelization in today's digital era.



Each participant eagerly explored their creativity through practical exercises.

On the second day, Mr. Sumit Dhanraj, Media Educationist, Freelance Journalist and Vice President of SIGNIS India led sessions on the essentials of News Writing, editing and reporting, fundamentals of journalism, news values, sense and ethics, qualities of a good journalist, and the 5Ws1H principle of reporting, etc. In the afternoon, he guided the participants in scriptwriting techniques – creating scenes, dialogues, and screenplays, illustrated through documentaries and live examples. He was followed by Mr. Aakash Singh, who introduced Videography Essentials, including shot composition, camera angles, and basic editing using the VN application.

The third day session on Strategic Social Media Usage was facilitated by Dr. Sr. Michelle Mathias, Assistant Professor. She taught to choose the right platforms like Facebook for community, Instagram for visuals, building positive online presence through crafting

engaging contents and understanding audience engagement to make impact on the digital world. The session included practical exercises in creating digital posters and uploading in the social media platform Instagram. Dr. Ritu Dubey Tiwari, Principal of NISCORT Media College, delivered an informative talk on Cyber Security and common cybercrime issues like phishing, fake links, digital baiting, and digital arrest. In the afternoon session, Fr. Robinson Rodrigues engaged the participants with the fascinating session on Artificial Intelligence. He explained how AI can be used to generate text, images and music with the right prompt while emphasizing the importance of ethical and responsible usage.

Towards the end of the workshop, Sr. Meera, President of AMRAT Thalitha Kum India, addressed the gathering with heartfelt appreciation for the participants' enthusiasm and dedication to learning new media skills for mission. She also expressed gratitude to Fr. Robinson and his entire team for their warm hospitality and professional guidance.

The workshop concluded with a final note from Fr. Robinson Rodrigues, who encouraged the sisters to keep learning through practice, to use online platforms for mission work, and to make use of the skills and opportunities God provides to spread positivity and hope in the digital world. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates by Fr. Robinson and Sr. Meera marking a meaningful step forward in empowering religious sisters as digital evangelizers.



SIGNIS welcomes the Holy Father Leo XIV with renewed hope and commitment

10 May 2025



(Vatican City) SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication, expresses its profound joy and gratitude for the election of Pope Leo XIV by the College of Cardinals on May 8 in Rome.

With hearts full of hope, Catholic communicators worldwide welcome the Holy Father, offering our prayers and renewing our commitment to serve the Church and the world through the media. Indeed, some of us already know him and have worked with him, as Catholic communicators.

While celebrating with other Catholics in the United States that he is a native Chicagoan, we know Pope Leo XIV is truly a man of the universal church. He is a citizen of both Peru and the United States. His grandparents were immigrants to the United States and he has spent most of his life as a missionary,

visiting and serving many parts of the world as prior general of the Order of St. Augustine.

At this historic moment for the universal Church, SIGNIS recognizes the immense responsibility that the Holy Spirit has entrusted to the new pontiff. As an association dedicated to transforming our cultures in the light of the Gospel through communication, we are committed to supporting the Holy Father in leading the Church to bring the “peace of the risen Christ... A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering,” as he proclaimed in his first address as pontiff.

SIGNIS, with its members in nearly 100 countries, renews its commitment to promote a culture of encounter and dialogue in the media, following the Church’s constant invitation to

communicate with truth and compassion. In a communications landscape marked by misinformation and polarization, Catholic communicators seek to be witnesses of unity and builders of peace.

We rejoice in the Holy Father’s invitation to “journey together” as a synodal church, “a Church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close above all to those who are suffering.”

Along with our Blessed Mother, may our patron, St. Oscar Arnulfo Romero, intercede for the Petrine ministry of the new Pope and the mission of all communicators in the service of the Church and the world.

by Helen Osman, President of SIGNIS

Source: <https://www.signisasia.net/signis-welcomes-the-holy-father-leo-xiv-with-renewed-hope-and-commitment/>

Pope Francis's Legacy of Authentic Communication

21 April 2025



The death of Pope Francis marks the end of a papacy characterized by a revolutionary communication style that transformed the relationship between the Catholic Church and the world. From his historic request for blessing to the people after his election in 2013, Francis redefined how the Holy See communicates with the faithful and global society.

Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, will be remembered as a pontiff who broke communication barriers established for centuries. Unlike his predecessors, he opted for direct, accessible, and frequently colloquial language. His memorable phrases, such as “Who am I to judge?” or his description of the Church as a “field hospital,” resonated globally for their clarity and profound meaning. Several distinctive elements characterized Pope Francis’s communication:

His authenticity, reflected in spontaneous gestures and decisions such as residing in Santa Marta instead of the Apostolic Palace, conveyed a more powerful message than many formal speeches.

He enthusiastically embraced social media. His @Pontifex account, which was translated into multiple languages, reached millions of followers, delivering concise messages of faith to diverse audiences.

He prioritized direct encounters, embracing the sick, dialoging with prisoners, and reaching out to geographical and existential peripheries, communicating with actions more than words.

His open interviews with journalists broke traditional protocol, showing a willingness to address controversial topics without institutional filters.

As a communication theologian, Francis emphasized that accurate ecclesial communication must be deep listening, synodal, and relational, not merely informative. In his 2023 World Communications Day message, he highlighted that it is not enough to use the Internet as a simple ‘amplifier’; it is necessary to inhabit the network by creating community.

Francis’s communicative legacy also included significant innovations in the Vatican media structure, such as creating the Dicastery for Communication, which unified various departments into an integrated communication strategy.

This approach allowed his message to reach people far from the Church, fulfilling his vision of a Church going forth.

Pope Francis demonstrated that effective communication does not depend upon sophisticated resources, but on authenticity, a cohesiveness between message and messenger, and a focus on the relationship with those receiving the message. His communicative legacy will endure as a model of how religious institutions can maintain their fundamental principles while adapting their communication methods to the digital and global era.

As we mourn with the entire world, which saw in Pope Francis a spiritual inspiration, a great caretaker of our Common Home, and a communicator based on simplicity and authenticity, may we strive to remember him by being authentic, compassionate and dialogic communicators.

Helen Osman
President of SIGNIS

Fr. John Mi Shen appointed as Executive Secretary of FABC Office of Social Communication

15 March 2025



Fr. John Mi Shen as the Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Social Communication (OSC)

The Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) Central Committee has named Fr. John Mi Shen as the Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Social Communication (OSC).

His appointment, approved on March 12, 2025, takes effect from January 1, 2025, and will run until December 31, 2028, with the possibility of a second term.

The FABC expressed gratitude for Fr. Mi Shen's acceptance of this role and acknowledged his leadership and valuable contributions to the mission of social communication in the Church across Asia.

His appointment reflects the FABC's ongoing commitment to strengthening communication efforts within the Church and

fostering deeper engagement in the digital and media landscape.

Heartfelt gratitude to former Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Social Communication (OSC), Fr. George Plathodam, SDB, for his dedicated service. His leadership and unwavering commitment have significantly advanced the mission of fostering effective communication within the Church across Asia.

Fr. Mi Shen was born on January 25, 1980, and was ordained a priest on June 18, 2010.

Fr. Mi Shen, a priest from the Diocese of Zhaoxian, China, obtained a Doctorate in Sacred Theology (SThD), majoring in Social and Pastoral Communication, from the University of Santo Tomas (UST), Manila, in 2024.

He served in his home diocese from 2010 to 2012 and played a significant role in promoting a Bible study movement in mainland China, the Little Rock Scripture Study Program.

From 2012 to 2018, he was the coordinator for the Mandarin Service at Radio Veritas Asia (RVA), Manila, Philippines. That same year, he began teaching in the Social and Pastoral Communication Program at UST as an associate lecturer, a role he continues to hold.

Since August 15, 2024, he has been serving as the program director of Radio Veritas Asia, further strengthening his commitment to pastoral communication and evangelization through media.

The 49th Japan Catholic Film Award goes to “Samurai Time Slipper”

SIGNIS JAPAN has selected the feature film “Samurai Time Slipper” (Directed by Junichi Yasuda, 131 minutes, distributed by GAGA) for the 49th Japan Catholic Film Award. The award ceremony, film screening, and a talk between Director Junichi Yasuda and Fr. Masahide Haresaku, Advisory Priest, SIGNIS JAPAN, will take place on Saturday, July 12 in Tokyo.

This year’s award-winning film, “Samurai Time Slipper” tells an extraordinary story of a samurai from the late Edo period (1860s) who time-travels to a modern-day period drama film set, where he reinvents himself as an “extra” who is slain in sword fight scenes. The film has been highly praised for its exceptional entertainment value and its universal message. It is a story that inspires admiration for the samurai’s selfless and honorable way of life, encouraging audiences to applaud from the heart. (<https://www.samutai.net>)

A Film of “True Commitment”

Fr. Masahide Haresaku, Advisory Priest of SIGNIS JAPAN

This film can be summed up in one word: Cool! And that, in cinema, is one of the highest compliments a movie can receive. It is a film brimming with “coolness”—a film that brings joy and happiness to its audience. Who would have thought that being truly committed to something could be so incredibly cool? And who would have thought that a film could so beautifully capture the essence of a person who lives with such sincerity?

The protagonist’s upright posture, his honest swordplay, and his unwavering way of life are, of course, commendable. But even more inspiring is the director’s unwavering determination to bring this film to life—dreaming passionately of making such a movie, undeterred by financial constraints, and ultimately creating a work that makes us laugh, weep, and deeply move our hearts. That dedication itself is truly cool.



Ah, yes—movies exist to bring joy to people. To be serious about making others happy, and to make sacrifices for that purpose—this is the very foundation of human connection. I am grateful to this film for reminding me of this pure truth.

The protagonist’s selfless commitment to justice, even at the risk of his own life, embodies the spirit of bushido (the way of the samurai) and even echoes the path of Christ, who gave his life for others. Watching this film cleanses the soul.

Emotion is the driving force of life. In today’s Japan, where we see uninspiring politicians and lackluster corporate executives, this film restores our spirit. That is why we absolutely had to recognize this brilliantly earnest and engaging film.

At the film’s breathtaking final scene, I found myself holding my breath. When I finally took a deep breath again after the credits rolled, I unconsciously straightened my back, thinking, Maybe I, too, can live a little more courageously.

As an aside, I must say that the Japan Catholic Film Award itself—recognizing the “coolness” of this film—might just be pretty cool, too.

Media Literacy Seminar for the Youth

31 December 2024



Kamaranga (Tripura) St. Raphael Parish Kamranga organized two days of youth programs for the parish youngsters. There were 47 participants from different villages of the parish. Fr. Arun Minj the parish priest along with the parish youth leaders called a meeting to arrange a program for the youth during the Christmas holidays.

There were other speakers to speak on different topics such as, 'drug abuse & social media abuse', 'youth responsibility towards Church', 'Adolescent social evils live in relationship, premarital sex and abortion' and 'Media Literacy'. Fr. Ivan DSilva the secretary for the social communication commission for Agartala Diocese was to give the seminar on Media Literacy. He spoke on Media and social evils that affect the youth of today.

He said, "Most of the youth today are quick to blame their parents for the evils that happen but they don't analyse that the greatest evil today among the youth is Mobile."

He further said, "Mobile is the one that controls the youth today, their time, their food, their sleep and moreover their relationship". Youth were divided into four groups and Fr. Ivan asked them to discuss the question 'How can we (youth) overcome the evils that are created by social media today?'.

The groups came out with interesting findings and they promised that they will caution others not to fall prey to the evils created by social media.

SIGNIS ASIA ASSEMBLY 2024: Innovating peace in the digital sphere



The SIGNIS ASIA Assembly 2024 gathered around 70 delegates from the Asia region to explore the theme “Human Communication in the Digital World for a Culture of Peace.”

The [SIGNIS ASIA Assembly 2024 \(SAA2024\)](https://www.signisasia.net/signis-asia-assembly-2024-innovating-peace-in-the-digital-sphere/), hosted in Tokyo, Japan, from September 23 to 27, gathered around 70 delegates from 12 countries to explore “Human Communication in the Digital World for a Culture of Peace.” Organized by SIGNIS ASIA and host country SIGNIS Japan, the event highlighted the intersection of faith, technology, and peace-building in the digital age.

Fr. Stanley Kozhichira, President, SIGNIS ASIA, and Itaru Tsuchiya, President, SIGNIS Japan, welcomed the delegates. Heart-felt video messages

from Dr. Paolo Ruffini, Prefect, Dicastery of Communication and Helen Osman, President, SIGNIS World, brought further insight into the theme as the Assembly commenced.

Bishop Paul Toshihiro Sakai, the keynote speaker, emphasized the importance of truth in communication. “Communicate the truth,” he urged attendees. As the advisory bishop to SIGNIS Japan and head of communications for the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Japan, Bishop Sakai’s address reflected on Japan’s role in promoting



In his keynote address, Bishop Paul Toshihiro Sakai emphasized the critical importance of truth in communication.

Echoing Pope Francis's call for ethical regulations in artificial intelligence, Apostolic Nuncio Francisco Escalante Molina discussed the interconnectedness of human communication, the digital world, and the culture of peace. "To foster truly human communication, we must reflect from the heart, seizing the benevolent opportunities modern technology offers while avoiding its dangers," Molina stated. "Human communication should awaken in us a deep sensitivity," he added. The assembly opened with a panel discussion led by Melissa Fernando, featuring voices from the perspectives of youth, women, and lay professionals. Panelists Naoki Nakanishi Fernandes, Makoto Yamada, Kazue Suzuki, and Ryu Suzuki shared their experiences on fostering peace in a digitally connected world.

Following this, Bishop Linus Seong-hyo Lee of Korea emphasized the role of journalists during a session on AI, stating, "The heart of information is people, not the shock and awe they bring to their leaders."

Workshops on the use of AI for faith-based missions and creative approaches to communication enriched the second day. Mennen Aracid introduced AI technology applications and resources that make tasks and processes more effective for faith-based outreach. Fr. Arun D'Souza Prakash's session on the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm—context, experience, reflection, action, and evaluation—offered a valuable framework for integrating peace-building through communication.

A highlight of the assembly was the evening film screenings. The first film, 'Water, Not Weapons – The Greening of Afghanistan', depicted the work of Dr. Tetsu Nakamura, a Japanese physician who spent decades transforming desert regions of Afghanistan through water conservation. The second film, 'The Face of the Faceless', directed by Shaison P. Ouseph, narrated the story of Sr. Rani Maria, an Indian martyr, and her legacy of mercy, forgiveness, love and sacrifice.

Participants were treated to two very special inspirational and impactful movie screenings in the evening. 'Water, Not Weapons – The Greening of Afghanistan', depicted the incredible work of Dr. Tetsu Nakamura. Nakamura was a physician from Fukuoka, Japan, who spent decades helping people in a desert area in Eastern Afghanistan. Nakamura's story is one of respect, commitment and hard work.

The assembly concluded with the adoption of the [SAA2024 Statement](#) calling for the responsible use of digital media to foster dialogue, unity, and peace. Participants left with a shared commitment to engage future generations in peace-building efforts, guided by Pope Francis's reminder that "true human communication must come from the heart, even in a world increasingly driven by AI." The Closing Mass, a profound moment of reflection and unity, was celebrated by His Excellency, Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, at the iconic St. Mary's Cathedral in Tokyo.

SIGNIS ASIA, the regional branch of SIGNIS – the World Catholic Association for Communication, continues to empower communicators across the Asia-Pacific region to use media for positive social impact.

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